

3. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 1 which comprises the nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:11.

7. (Amended) A recombinant DNA comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of Claims 1 to [6] 3 operably linked to regulatory control [nucleic acid] sequences which can effect expression of said nucleic acid [sequence] in a host cell.

11. (Amended) A method of producing a recombinant wth3 protein [or immunogenic fragment thereof], which process comprises:

- a) culturing the host cell of Claim 9 in a culture medium under conditions suitable for expression of the wth3 protein [or immunogenic fragment thereof] in said host cell, and
- b) recovering said recombinant protein [or immunogenic fragment thereof] from said host cell or said culture medium.

12. (Amended) A wth3 protein [or immunogenic fragment thereof] prepared by the method of Claim 11.

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are pending. Claims 1-4, 7-12, 18-20, 30, 34-36, 41, 55-57, 62 and 70 were examined. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 4-6, 13-69 and 71-80, including claims previously withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to submit the subject matter contained in the claims that have been cancelled without prejudice at a later date or in a future division or continuation application. Claims 1-3, 7-12, and 70 remain pending.

Claims 1-3, which were previously allowed, have been amended to remove any ambiguity as to antecedent basis. The amendments are not meant to alter the scope of the claims.

Claims 7-12 are believed to have been rejected on the basis of dependency on Claim 4, and should now be allowable in view of the amendments to Claims 7, 11 and 12.

Conclusion

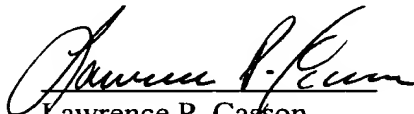
In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the present application is in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to reconcile any outstanding issues that might remain.

Respectfully Submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By:


Lawrence P. Casson
Reg. No. 46,606

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004

Direct Dial: 212-908-6204
Fax: 212-425-5288
General Tel: 212-425-7200